



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
30 June 1999

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Thirty-ninth session
7 June–2 July 1999

Draft report

Addendum

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 12. Environment

1. At its 16th and 17th meetings, on 16 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 12, Environment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 12)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the document.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the principal institution within the United Nations system in the field of environment. Its positive contribution in addressing environmental issues was recognized. In this context, it was noted that as consultations were still under way in the General Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements (A/53/463) there might be a need for the Secretariat to adjust the programme with the outcome of such consultations.
4. It was noted that the resources of the programme should be considered in conjunction with section 27G, Administration, Nairobi, and that the savings, including savings in posts, resulting from the transfer of functions from UNEP to the United Nations Office at Nairobi needed to be clearly indicated.
5. It was observed that the format of the presentation of the section was not totally harmonized with the format followed in other sections and that a breakdown of resources



by subprogrammes was not provided. Concern was expressed about the use in the budget section of concepts and terms that had not been endorsed and were still under consideration by the General Assembly. In that regard, it was noted that there might be a need to review the inclusion in the narrative of such concepts in accordance with pertinent decisions of the General Assembly and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The view was expressed that there was scope for the refinement of the paragraph on expected accomplishments.

6. It was noted with concern that the programme was funded primarily from voluntary contributions. It was stressed that UNEP required adequate resources, in particular from the regular budget, to implement its programme of work.

7. The view was expressed that the Mercure Telecommunications System should be partially funded through the regular budget.

8. The view was expressed that there was a need for coordination with other United Nations agencies in order to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

9. The view was expressed that programme managers needed to implement more fully the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, which require self-evaluation and identification of activities that are inefficient, ineffective or irrelevant. The view was also expressed that the formulation of expected accomplishments was not feasible for some activities dealing with economic and social affairs.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to reformulate the narrative of section 12, Environment, in conformity with the standard presentation of the other sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the resolutions and decisions of relevant intergovernmental bodies, subject to the final approval of the General Assembly. The revised narrative should be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session.
